

THE WASHINGTON POST

Sunday, June 10, 1962

E7

Education for the Cold War

'Freedom Academy' Has Merit

By Roscoe Drummond

THE BIPARTISAN Senate sponsors of the "freedom academy" bill have received some bad news—and a little good news—from the State Department.

The bad news is that the State Department does not want Congress to pass the bill creating a "freedom academy" which would do independent research on methods of waging the cold war and would provide special training for people, inside and outside the Government, to conduct the nonmilitary side of the conflict more effectively.

Frederick G. Dutton, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, in a 3-page, 1200-word letter, suffocates the "freedom academy" idea with praise for its purposes and with a "no" in every paragraph, saying in effect: "hands off, we're doing just fine."

ON THE OTHER hand, the State Department, worried by the public support which the "freedom academy" is winning and apparently in an effort to blunt

the case for it, announces that it is preparing to add a 5-week course in cold war techniques to the regular curriculum of the Foreign Service Institute.

I call this negative good news.

It is good because by it the State Department admits the need for doing more to provide specialized cold war training.

It is negative because it shows that the Department is doing nothing adequate to provide this training. A 5 week course thrown together by an improvised faculty for a few Government officials is like sending the Marines to Guadalcanal after preparing them for a game of ping pong.

PERHAPS it is understandable that the State Department should resist the "freedom academy" proposal. Every arm of the government is jealous over its traditional prerogatives. There is a built-in bureaucratic resistance to anything that might upset the status quo or even appear to do so.

Dutton's letter shows that the State Department is extremely sensitive over its jurisdictional authority as the President's sole agent in foreign affairs. I think it is overly sensitive and that Dutton's rebuff to the sponsors of the "freedom academy" bill rests on a misreading and a misunderstanding of the project.

The proposed "freedom academy" would not dilute nor impair the authority of the State Department any more than the Naval Academy dilutes or impairs the authority of the Navy. It would strengthen the State Department by nourishing the insight and the expertness of all in Government dealing with the cold war.

I should think that Sen. William Fulbright of Arkansas and Rep. Francis Walter of Pennsylvania, the respective chairmen of the Senate and House committees to which the "freedom academy" bill has been assigned, would not accept the State Department's negative attitude.

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